GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2365
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2015
Social Security for Labourers
Kesineni Shri Srinivas;Mishra Shri Bhairon Prasad;Patel Shri Natubhai Gomanbhai;Patel Smt. Jayshreeben

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government proposes to bring a new welfare and social security scheme for labourers of unorganised sector and if so, the details and salient features thereof;
(b)whether the proposed labour reforms would also motivate industrialist, enhance employment opportunities for labourers and if so, the details in this regard;
(c)whether the Government proposes to regularise those unorganised labourers working for more than 10 years in various Government and private sectors and if so, the number and details of such workers, State/UT-wise along with the steps taken/proposed to be taken to regularise such workers;
(d)whether the Government has extended any scheme for pensions to
workers of the unorganised sector and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
(e)the various ongoing schemes for the safety and health and for improving the working condition of labourers including contract labourers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a): The Government has enacted 'Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008' for the welfare of unorganised workers. The salient features of the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 are:
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â€¢ Registration of Unorganised workers and issuance of Identity Card by the District Administration which shall be a smart card carrying a unique identification number and shall be portable.
â€¢ Formulation of schemes by the Central Government for different sections of unorganised workers on matters relating to (a) life and disability cover; (b) health and maternity benefits; (c) old age protection (d) any other benefit as may be determined by the Central Government.
â€¢ Formulation of schemes relating to provident fund, employment injury benefits, housing, educational schemes for children, skill upgradation, funeral assistance and old age homes by the State Governments.
â€¢ Constitution of National Social Security Board under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Labour & Employment, Member Secretary and 34 nominated members representing Members of Parliament, unorganised workers, employers of unorganised workers, civil society, Central Ministries and State Governments.
â€¢ Section 6 has provision for constitution of similar Boards at the State level.

(b) & (c): Reforms in Labour Laws are an ongoing process to update legislative system to address the need of the hour to make them more effective and contemporary to the emerging economic and industrial scenario. Such reforms help in catalyzing the creation of employment opportunities in the country, without diluting basic aspects of safety, security and health provision of workers.

(d): The Government has recently launched Atal Pension Yojana mainly targeting unorganised workers. Under the APY, subscribers would receive a fixed minimum pension of Rs. 1000 per month, Rs. 2000 per month, Rs. 3000 per month, Rs. 4000 per month, Rs. 5000 per month, at the age of 60 years, depending on their contributions, which itself would vary on the age of joining the APY. The Central Government would also co-contribute 50 percent of the total contribution or Rs. 1000 per annum, whichever is lower, to each eligible subscriber account, for a period of 5 years, the benefit of fixed minimum pension would be guaranteed by the Government.
(e): Various Social Security Schemes, formulated by the Government to provide social security cover to the unorganized workers, listed in the Schedule I of the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 are as under:
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i. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme. (Ministry of Rural Development)
ii. National Family Benefit Scheme. (Ministry of Rural Development)
iii. JananiSurakshaYojana. (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)
iv. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.(Ministry of Textiles)
v. Handicraft Artisans' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme. (Ministry of Textiles)
vi. Pension to Master Craft Persons. (Ministry of Textiles)
vii. National Scheme for Welfare of Fishermen and Training and Extension. (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries)
viii. Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana. (Ministry of Labour and Employment).
ix. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana. (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare).

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